

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (original): A camera having an auto-focus
2 section having distance measurement points corresponding
3 to a plurality of points in a frame,
4 the auto-focus section including a first determining
5 section which determines a first candidate point of said
6 plurality of points, and a second determining section
7 which determines a second candidate point of said
8 plurality of points which is different from the first
9 candidate point,
10 the camera comprising:
11 a switch detecting section which detects operation
12 of a predetermined switch by a photographer; and
13 a selecting section which selects/switches the first
14 and second candidate points in accordance with a state
15 detected by the switch detecting section.

1 Claim 2 (original): A camera according to claim 1,
2 wherein the selecting section selects the first candidate
3 point when the switch detecting section detects no
4 operation of the switch, and selects the second candidate
5 point when the switch detecting section detects operation
6 of the switch.

1 Claim 3 (original): A camera according to claim 1,
2 wherein the first and second determining sections
3 determine candidate points in accordance with one of an
4 order of increasing distance, an order of increasing
5 distance with respect to a predetermined distance, an
6 order of increasing distance to the center of a frame,
7 and an order of decreasing contrast.

1 Claim 4 (original): A camera according to claim 1,
2 wherein the first determining section determines a
3 distance measurement point indicating the nearest
4 distance as the first candidate point, and the second
5 determining section determines a point indicating the
6 second nearest distance as the second candidate point.

1 Claim 5 (original): A camera according to claim 1, which
2 further comprises a display section which displays
3 positions corresponding to said plurality of candidate
4 points in a frame, and
5 in which the selecting section performs point
6 switching operation when the switch detection is
7 performed during display operation of the display
8 section.

1 Claim 6 (original): A camera according to claim 1,
2 wherein the predetermined switch comprises a switch which

3 is mounted on a photographing lens and switches between
4 an auto-focus mode and a manual focus mode.

1 Claim 7 (currently amended): A multi-point auto-focus
2 camera having a selection/display control section which
3 selects and displays at least one of a plurality of
4 distance measurement points using a predetermined
5 algorithm, comprising:

6 a switch which selects a manual focus mode; and
7 a focusing rotating ring which gives an instruction
8 for focusing in the manual focus mode; and

9 a point switching control section which switches the
10 selected/displayed point in accordance with rotation
11 operation of the ~~switch~~ focusing rotating ring when
12 control operation is performed by the selection/display
13 control section.

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): A camera comprising:

2 ~~an operating section~~ a rotating ring which issues is
3 provided on a lens barrel portion for issuing an
4 instruction associated with focusing operation;

5 an auto-focus section which performs focusing
6 operation on the basis of an in-focus point position in a
7 frame;

8 a switching section which switches the in-focus
9 point position in the frame; and

10 a control section which performs control to set
11 ~~an~~ the instruction from the ~~operating section~~ rotating
12 ring as a switching instruction to the switching section
13 or ~~a specific operation~~ an instruction ~~associated with~~
14 ~~focusing operation other than the switching operation~~ for
15 focusing in a manual focus mode.

1 Claim 9 (original): A camera according to claim 8,
2 wherein the switching section switches the in-focus point
3 position in accordance with a predetermined rule.

1 Claim 10 (currently amended): A camera comprising:
2 an operating section which issues an instruction
3 associated with focusing operation;
4 an auto-focus section which performs focusing
5 operation on the basis of an in-focus point position in a
6 frame;
7 a switching section which switches the in-focus
8 point position in the frame; and
9 a control section which performs control to set an
10 instruction from the operating section as a switching
11 instruction to the switching section or a specific
12 operation instruction associated with focusing operation
13 other than the switching operation,
14 wherein the switching section switches the in-focus
15 point position in accordance with a predetermined rule,
16 and ~~A camera according to claim 9,~~

17 wherein the predetermined rule comprises a rule
18 which switches the in-focus point in order of increasing
19 object distance on the basis of an object distance at
20 each in-focus point position.

1 Claim 11 (currently amended): A camera comprising:
2 an operating section which issues an instruction
3 associated with focusing operation;
4 an auto-focus section which performs focusing
5 operation on the basis of an in-focus point position in a
6 frame;
7 a switching section which switches the in-focus
8 point position in the frame; and
9 a control section which performs control to set an
10 instruction from the operating section as a switching
11 instruction to the switching section or a specific
12 operation instruction associated with focusing operation
13 other than the switching operation,
14 wherein the switching section switches the in-focus
15 point position in accordance with a predetermined rule,
16 and A camera according to claim 9,

17 wherein the predetermined rule comprises a rule
18 which switches the in-focus point in order of decreasing
19 contrast on the basis of an object distance at each
20 in-focus point position.

1 Claim 12 (original): A camera according to claim 9,
2 wherein the predetermined rule comprises a rule which
3 switches the in-focus point in predetermined switching
4 order of the in-focus point position.

1 Claim 13 (currently amended): A camera comprising:
2 an operating section which issues an instruction
3 associated with focusing operation;
4 an auto-focus section which performs focusing
5 operation on the basis of an in-focus point position in a
6 frame;
7 a switching section which switches the in-focus
8 point position in the frame; and
9 a control section which performs control to set an
10 instruction from the operating section as a switching
11 instruction to the switching section or a specific
12 operation instruction associated with focusing operation
13 other than the switching operation,
14 wherein the switching section switches the in-focus
15 point position in accordance with a predetermined rule,
16 and ~~A camera according to claim 9,~~
17 wherein the predetermined rule comprises a rule
18 which sequentially changes a condition for selecting one
19 of a plurality of in-focus point positions, and switches
20 one in-focus point position selected under the changed
21 selection condition.

1 Claim 14 (original): A camera according to claim 13,
2 wherein at least two conditions of a condition for
3 selection of an in-focus point position in accordance
4 with an object distance at each in-focus point position,
5 a condition for selection of an in-focus point position
6 in accordance with contrast of an object at each in-focus
7 point position, and a condition for selection of
8 an in-focus point position in accordance with
9 a predetermined switching order of the in-focus point
10 position are prepared as the conditions.

1 Claim 15 (original): A camera according to claim 13,
2 wherein the auto-focus section uses one of the conditions
3 which is used for immediately preceding photographing
4 operation as a condition used first by the operating
5 section in issuing an operation instruction.

1 Claim 16 (original): A camera according to claim 14,
2 wherein the auto-focus section uses one of the conditions
3 which is used for immediately preceding photographing
4 operation as a condition used first by the operating
5 section in issuing an operation instruction.

1 Claim 17 (cancelled)

1 Claim 18 (original): A camera according to claim 11,
2 wherein the specific operation instruction comprises an

3 instruction to switch between the manual focus mode and
4 the auto-focus mode.

1 Claim 19 (cancelled)

1 Claim 20 (original): A camera according to claim 15,
2 wherein the specific operation instruction comprises an
3 instruction to switch between the manual focus mode and
4 the auto-focus mode.

1 Claim 21 (currently amended): A camera according to
2 claim 8, wherein the ~~specific operation~~ instruction for
3 focusing in a manual mode comprises an instruction to
4 move ~~to~~ a focusing lens.

1 Claim 22 (currently amended): A camera according to
2 claim 11, wherein the specific operation instruction
3 comprises an instruction to move ~~to~~ a focusing lens.

1 Claim 23 (currently amended): A camera according to
2 claim 12, wherein the ~~specific operation~~ instruction for
3 focusing in a manual mode comprises an instruction to
4 move ~~to~~ a focusing lens.

1 Claim 24 (currently amended): A camera according to
2 claim 15, wherein the specific operation instruction
3 comprises an instruction to move ~~to~~ a focusing lens.

1 Claim 25 (currently amended): A camera comprising:
2 an operating section which issues an instruction
3 associated with focusing operation;
4 an auto-focus section which performs focusing
5 operation on the basis of an in-focus point position in a
6 frame;
7 a switching section which switches the in-focus
8 point position in the frame; and
9 a control section which performs control to set an
10 instruction from the operating section as a switching
11 instruction to the switching section or a specific
12 operation instruction associated with focusing operation
13 other than the switching operation, A camera according to
14 claim 8,
15 wherein after operation of the auto-focus section is
16 started, the control section sets an instruction for the
17 operating section as a switching instruction to the
18 switching section.

1 Claim 26 (original): A camera according to claim 11,
2 wherein after operation of the auto-focus section is
3 started, the control section sets an instruction for the
4 operating section as a switching instruction to the
5 switching section.

1 Claim 27 (currently amended): A camera comprising:

2 an operating section which issues an instruction
3 associated with focusing operation;
4 an auto-focus section which performs focusing
5 operation on the basis of an in-focus point position in a
6 frame;
7 a switching section which switches the in-focus
8 point position in the frame; and
9 a control section which performs control to set an
10 instruction from the operating section as a switching
11 instruction to the switching section or a specific
12 operation instruction associated with focusing operation
13 other than the switching operation,
14 wherein the switching section switches the in-focus
15 point position in accordance with a predetermined rule,
16 wherein the predetermined rule comprises a rule
17 which switches the in-focus point in predetermined
18 switching order of the in-focus point position, and A
19 ~~camera according to claim 12,~~
20 wherein after operation of the auto-focus section is
21 started, the control section sets an instruction for the
22 operating section as a switching instruction to the
23 switching section.

1 Claim 28 (original): A camera according to claim 15,
2 wherein after operation of the auto-focus section is
3 started, the control section sets an instruction for the

4 operating section as a switching instruction to the
5 switching section.

1 Claim 29 (original): A control method for a focusing
2 device which can switch in-focus point positions for
3 auto-focus operation within a frame,
4 wherein an operation instruction by a specific
5 operation section which issues an instruction associated
6 with focusing operation is controlled as an instruction
7 to switch the in-focus position within a predetermined
8 period after start of auto-focus operation, and as a
9 specific instruction associated with another focusing
10 operation other than the in-focus point position
11 switching during a period other than the predetermined
12 period.